

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the subject patent application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (previously presented): Method in removal of internal bones in a fore-end of a split carcass, including:

bringing a transport tool (27a) to grip around the free end of the shank bone; ;
pulling the fore-end past cutting tools (1, 9, 15) by means of the transport tool; ;
having the cutting tools (1, 9, 15) perform cutting operations along the shank bone and the humerus bone guided by these bones to free-cut at least partial these from the rest of the fore-end; and
maintaining the articulations between at least the shank bone and the humerus bone at least partially unbroken during the cutting operations, so that the tractive force from the transport tool (27a) by the grip of the tool around the free end of the shank bone is transferred to the bones via their unbroken connections.

2 (previously presented): Method according to claim 1, further including guiding at least one cutting tool (15) by the shoulder blade to perform cutting operations along this for loosening from the rest of the fore-end.

3 (previously presented): Method according to claim 1, further including supporting the fore-end on a transport plane (3) during the cutting operations.

4 (previously presented): Method according to claim 1, further including flexibly suspending at least some of the cutting tools, so that during the cutting operation they are flexibly loaded against the shank bone, the humerus bone and/or the shoulder blade.

5 (previously presented): Method according to claim 1, further including employing a machine to make two cuts along opposite sides of the shank bone near the free end of this before the transport tool (27a) is brought to grip around the free end of the shank bone, so that the transport tool can grip down into these two cuts and obtain contact with the shank bone.

6 (previously presented): Method according to claim 1, further including moving at least the shank bone and the humerus bone, after the cutting operations with the cutting tools (1, 9, 15) in a direction upwards from the transport plane of the fore-end (3, 34), while the rest of the fore-end is kept at the transport plane by retaining means (33), whereby at least the shank bone and the humerus bone are removed from the fore-end.

7 (withdrawn): Apparatus for use in removal of internal bones in a fore-end of a split carcass, comprising:

- a transport tool (27a) with grippers that can be brought to grip around the free end of the shank bone;

- a transport device (27) for the transport tool (27a) to pull the fore-end along a transport path; and

- a plurality of cutting tools (1, 9, 15) arranged along the transport path to perform cutting operations along the shank bone and the humerus bone guided by these bones to at least partial free-cut these from the rest of the fore-end when the fore-end is pulled past the cutting tools.

8 (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein at least one cutting tool is also guided by the shoulder blade to perform cutting operations along this for loosening from the rest of the fore-end.

9 (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a transport plane (3) to support the fore-end during the cutting operations.

10 (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein at least some of the cutting tools are flexibly suspended, so that during the cutting operation they are flexibly loaded against at least one of a shank bone, a humerus bone and a shoulder blade.

11 (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a cutting tool (15), which is adapted to perform two cuts along opposite sides of the shank bone near its free end before the transport tool (27a) is brought to grip around the free end of the shank bone, so that the transport tool can grip down into these two cuts and obtain contact with the shank bone.

12 (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a transport device (32) adapted to move, after the cutting operations with the cutting tools (1, 9, 15), at least the shank bone, and the humerus bone in a direction upwards from the transport plane (3, 34) of the fore-end, and retaining means (33) for keeping the rest of the fore-end at the transport plane while at least the shank bone, and the humerus bone are moved in a direction upwards from the transport plane, whereby the shank bone, the humerus bone and possibly the shoulder blade are removed from the fore-end.

13 (withdrawn): Positioning device to place the free end of the shank of a fore-end in a transport tool (27a), comprising a conveyor belt (23) to convey the fore-end with the shank in front in the direction towards the transport tool (27a), a funnel device (24) to guide the free end of the shank to fit tightly against the narrowed part of the funnel, a gripper (26) to grip the shank when the free end is in the narrowed part of the funnel device, means to move the funnel device away from the fore-end when the gripper has gripped around the shank, and a transport device to move the gripper (26) with retained fore-end with the shank in front until the free end of the shank is placed in the transport tool (27a).

14 (withdrawn): Device according to claim 13, further comprising a cutting tool (25) to perform two cuts along opposite sides of the shank bone near its free end before the gripper (26) grips around the shank.

15 (withdrawn): Transport device for conveying fore-ends with the shank in front with the fore-ends retained in each of their own transport tool, further comprising a conveyor (27) with a continuous chain of transport tools (27a), each of which is provided with means to grip around and retain the free end of the shank of a fore-end that is supplied at the entrance end of the conveyor.

16 (withdrawn): Device according to claim 15, wherein each transport tool (27a) includes a frame placed across the transport direction, in which frame the shank can be retained by displacement of the frame transversely to the transport direction.

17 (withdrawn): Extraction device for extraction of at least the shank bone and the humerus bone from a fore-end which is supplied supported on a transport plane, and in which fore-end the bones are at least partially cut free from the rest of the fore-end, comprising a transport

device (32), adapted to move at least the shank bone, and the humerus bone in a direction upwards from the transport plane (3, 34) of the fore-end, and retaining devices (33) which are designed to keep the rest of the fore-end at the transport plane while at least the shank bone, and the humerus bone are moved in a direction upwards from the transport plane, whereby at least the shank bone, and the humerus bone are removed from the fore-end.

18 (withdrawn): Knife tool, comprising a blade (40) and a motor to turn the blade around an axle (40a) that is at right angles to the plane of the blade, the blade, at a distance from the axle, having two cutting edges (40b) which meet in a point (40c), and one of said cutting edges located to an inward side of a circular arc that the point describes when the blade (40) is turned around the axle in a direction of the point, and the other cutting edge to the outward side of the circular arc, whereby the parts of the cutting edges have increasing distance from the circular arc in a direction backwards from the point (40c).

19 (withdrawn): Knife tool according to claim 18, wherein the internal cutting edge (40b) has the shape of an arc with a smaller radius than the circular arc that the point (40c) describes when the blade is turned, and that the external cutting edge (40b) has the shape of an arc with a bigger radius than the circular arc that the point (40c) describes.